

THE CHURCHES AND TO-DAY'S SERVICES

The Word of the Cross

Sermon by
REV. FLOYD W. TOMPKINS.
Text: 1 Cor. 1: 1-31; II: 1-5.

We sometimes think that the early Christians were faultless, and that the Apostolic Church was free from many of the difficulties which beset the church to-day. But we are mistaken. The Book of Acts and the letters of St. Paul show us how the very troubles we desire to-day were felt in the first century. Divisions, false teachings, bitter feelings and criticisms were common among the early believers. While St. Paul was full of courage, his letters show us how frequently he was saddened by the faults and failures of those whom he had led to Christ. Do not let us be discouraged. Humanity is weak and we must be patient.

While Paul was at Ephesus, whither he went from Corinth, he heard through members of the household of Chloe an unknown Christian woman, perhaps of Ephesus, but having friends or relatives in Corinth) that the Corinthian Church was divided into parties, each claiming superiority to the rest. There was an "Andronic party," a "Priscilla party," and to Paul's horror, a "Paul party," and the growth of the church was retarded by these divisions, as it always must be.

NO Sadder thing than divisions in the church. There is no sadder thing in the world than divisions, whether in the family, in the state or in the church. They result from selfishness and prejudice and misunderstanding combined, and they can only be overcome by humble love for Christ and for service in His name. Among them all the worst of these divisions is found in disunity among Christians. It is simply horrible to contemplate the fact that there are so many branches of the Christian church, and still more horrible that they are hostile to each other. We have grown so used to it for hundreds of years that we hardly give it a thought.

It was a new thing when St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, and it horrified him. Christ's children divided into hostile groups. That must have been a terrible thing to him. He must have been a man of peace. I believe you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that we all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. I imagine he would cry the same words, and if possible, with greater emphasis, to the same divided Christians to-day and to-morrow. The great Roman church arrayed against the Greek church and the great Greek church arrayed against the Protestant church, and all were arrayed against each other. I wonder how many of our care or are saddened by this condition.

BE RALLYING POINT. What did Paul write to these divided Christians of Corinth? He declared to them that the only rallying point must be their rallying point. Christ crucified was the foundation stone of their faith. It had been the burden of his preaching, and he knew nothing else for the fact that Jesus died for him was the great joy of his life and his hope for eternity. And this same cross must be our rallying point to-day. No matter how our poor human differences and ideas of opinions and practices, let us all come and look up into the suffering face of Him who so loved us all as to die for us, and let us all have hands which are joined together in a unity never to be broken. I am so thankful Paul took this way of rebuking and healing the divisions. If he had begun to argue about this or that, if he had started an inquiry into the errors of the followers of Apollus or Peter, where would he and the Christians have been, save in a confusion where confusion is a sick and tired word sought through reason or platforms or agreements. It has never been found so, and it never will be found. Come on, all of you; let us gather to the meaning of the cross and hear the words of our dying Christ. He only can make us one. If we will not hear Him, then we are none of His; but as we may of our orthodoxy or our opinions or our ideas or our works, if we will hear Him and accept His death as our salvation, then we are one, and can rejoice together.

JESUS WANTED CONQUEROR TO FREE THEM FROM HOME. The cross was a stumbling block to the Jews. They wanted a conqueror who should free them from the Roman Empire. Forgetting the blood sprinkled yearly on the mercy seat in the holy place of the temple, forgetting the misery of sin which the sacrifices could not take away, forgetting the dear promise of God that He would send a Savior, they looked upon Christ as a man who had failed, and the cross was His end. The Jews, blind to the meaning of their own heathen sacrifices and consulting of oracles, and wild with passion for beauty and wisdom and physical strength, simply looked at the story of a "Man acquainted with grief" and hearing the sorrows and sins of a blind world. The cross? Away with such a religion whose Founder was put to death as a criminal. He is rather follow Apollus, the god of beauty, and Venus, the goddess of love.

But what has that cross become through the ages but the center of purity and comfort and strength? See the sinners coming to the Crucified One and finding their burdens rolled away and their lives cleansed. See the sorrowful bowing at the foot of the cross and hearing blessed words of comfort from Him Who died that men might live. Mark the advance of humanity as, going out with the cross as their banner, they became more and more and loving, giving their lives for others, as the Christ gave His life for them. CROSS IS POWER OF GOD.

AND THE WISDOM OF GOD. Hear the world singing to-day, in spite of war and desolation: "Onward Christian Soldiers," "The Cross of Christ I Glory," "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me." To such the cross is the power of God and the wisdom of God. No wonder the Corinthians grew ashamed of their divisions. Their eyes were turned away from their human leaders, even though amongst them was the brilliant preacher and the emotional evangelist and the keen reasoner. Apollus, Peter, Paul, they were voices calling the way—but the way led to Calvary and to Jesus, the Savior of the world. Oratory, emotion, reason have their place, but oh, when the heart is weary with sin and the spirit longs for rest and the body sinks exhausted on the stony path of life, then we cry, "Jesus, lover of my soul," and there is peace, perfect peace.

We are divided because we do not love Jesus enough or trust Him as we should. When once our hearts are held to Him in devotion, we will clasp hands in a brotherhood which shall sweep the world into the Christian fold. But if our hearts are cold, if the brain masters love and subdues it, if we reason "how" and "why," when the King cries "Come unto Me," then the old

divisions will continue and the prayer of the Lord "that we all may be one" (St. John xiii: 21) will find no answer. Because we refuse to give an answer. Oh, why can we not find this word of the cross and have our divisions healed? If we really believe in Jesus Christ as the world's only Redeemer, why can we not believe in each other and work and worship together?

MESSAGE OF CHRIST IS PARDON FROM SIN. What is the message of the cross as you and to me? First, it means pardon for sin. Christ was crucified that my sin might be forgiven, and it can be forgiven in no other way. Try as I will, by any and every act of law, I must fail. There is only one way to be made clean, and that is through the blood of my Christ, shed for me on the cross. Again, the cross gives us life. Through Christ's death I live. And this eternal life is not alone for heaven; it is mine now if I will accept it. "He that believeth hath everlasting life." My old sinful dying self dies here at the cross and my new self is born. So the Christian rightly counts his birthday as the day when he was born again, when he accepted Jesus as his Savior. Third, the cross is power. It can do all things through Christ. It will be Christ's alone, under Christ, that can drive away the demon and make men pure and honest and end warfare. The word of the cross is a cry of victory. It is to sweep over the world and conquer it through love. It is before the Lamb, slain from the foundation of the world that all men before and after may be saved, that every knee shall bow and every tongue confess. He is the conqueror, and He conquers through His redeeming love. Never can we separate Jesus from the cross, and when we get to the end of the cross, we see Him, oh joy of joy, we shall look for those who in His hands and feet which shall prove the King of glory to be the Lord who died. And finally, the cross is the great bond of union. The gospel is to make all men one. Nations will cease their jealousy and wicked cruelty. The ships of the sea will carry gifts, not guns or poisonous liquor. Men will sing that one glad song of redemption, and they will worship together under one banner and under one Master.

Lord, take from me, burn it out if I resist in stubbornness—the spirit which separates me from my brethren. Let me do what I can to bring unity amongst Thy people. Oh, show once more to the eyes of men Thy cross, that they may remember and be ashamed of their divisions. And oh, my crucified Christ, draw me to Thee and keep me at the foot of Thy cross, for there only can I find life and peace. Amen.

LOCAL CHURCH NOTICES

METHODIST.

Centenary—Rev. W. W. Peck, headmaster of Trinity Park School, Durham, N. C., will preach at 11 o'clock this morning at 11 o'clock this morning. Broad Street—Rev. James H. Montgomery will preach at 11 o'clock this morning. Rev. C. C. Guley will preach at 8:15 to-night.

Park Place—Rev. Samuel C. Hatcher, D. D., will preach at 11 o'clock this morning. There will be no evening service. Union Station—Rev. H. D. Mallock will preach at 11 o'clock this morning. Rev. J. H. Montgomery will preach at 8 o'clock this evening.

Branch Memorial—Rev. W. K. Cunningham will preach at 11 o'clock this morning. This evening there will be an evangelistic service with special music. Fairmount Avenue—Rev. Stark Jett will preach at 11 o'clock this morning. Rev. J. L. Ray will preach at 8 o'clock this evening.

Grace, Soldiers' Home Chapel—Rev. E. L. Copley, the pastor, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning on "The Soldier's Refuge," and at 8 o'clock this evening on "The Mystery of the Minority's Might."

Monument—Rev. W. J. Mayhew will preach at 11 o'clock this morning. There will be preaching at 8:15 this evening.

BAPTIST.

First—Rev. B. D. Hahn will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8:15 to-night.

Grace Street—Rev. Charles S. Gardner, D. D., of Louisville, Ky., will preach at 11 o'clock this morning. There will be no service to-night.

Immanuel—Rev. C. Wirt Trainum, of King and Queen County, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning. Rev. S. C. Hatcher, of the Anti-Slavery League, will preach at 8:15 to-night.

Grove Avenue—Rev. J. S. Dill, D. D., of South Carolina, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning on "King Saul: A Lesson in Lawlessness." There will be no service to-night.

Pine Street—Dr. Douglas S. Freeman will preach at 11 o'clock this morning. There will be no service to-night.

Leigh Street—Rev. J. J. Wicker, the pastor, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning on "The Religion of Rest." Rev. W. W. Lammum, D. D., of Louisville, Ky., will preach at 8:15 to-night.

will conduct the regular morning service at 11 o'clock, at the parish house on Madison Street. There will be no evening service.

St. James—Rev. G. McI. Brydon will preach at 11 o'clock this morning. There will be no evening service. St. Paul's—Rev. Lenox Valentine Lee, the pastor's assistant, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock to-night. The morning subject will be "Paul, the Triumphant." Lantern slides showing the life of Christ will be displayed at Sunday school at 10 o'clock.

St. Andrew's—Rev. Philip A. Arthur, the assistant rector, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8:15 this evening. The evening subject will be "Daniel, the Statesman."

PRESBYTERIAN.

First—Rev. William J. Caldwell, D. D., of York, Pa., will preach at 11 o'clock this morning. There will be no evening service.

Second—Rev. William Hoge, Marquette, dean of White Bible Training School, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning.

Grace Covenant—Rev. Edward Mack, D. D., will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8:15 to-night.

CHRISTIAN.

Seventh Street—Rev. P. A. Cave, of Reading, Green, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning. There will be no evening service.

Cowardin Avenue—Rev. R. N. Floyd will preach in the absence of the pastor. The morning subject will be "Man, His Creation and Object," and the night subject, "Man, His Fall and God's Plan for His Redemption."

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE.

First Church of Christ, Scientist—Regular service will be held this morning at 11 o'clock. The subject will be "Christ Jesus."

ENGLISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN.

First—Rev. J. J. Scherer, Jr., will preach at 11 o'clock this morning.

REVIVAL SERVICES.

Union Gospel Tent—Services will be held at 3 o'clock this afternoon and at 7:15 to-night. The tent is located in Jefferson Park.

SALVATION ARMY.

William Byrd Park—The regular service at 4 o'clock this afternoon will be conducted by Rev. W. and Mrs. W. H. Nichols, of New York City. Rev. H. Nichols is one of the leading soloists of the Salvation Army. He will sing this afternoon. The service at the auditorium at 120 North Seventy Street at 8 o'clock to-night will also be in charge of Rev. and Mrs. Nichols.

CENTRAL Y. M. C. A.

Life Problem Club—John S. Haw, of the First National Bank, will lead the discussion on the subject, "The Young Man's Choice," at 8 o'clock this afternoon. Mr. Simpson, of the University of Chicago, son of Rev. T. M. Simpson, D. D., will speak at the meeting of the Boys' Club at 2:30.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST.

Bible Institute—Evangelist A. E. Serna will lecture to-night on the subject, "Election by Predestination." The Institute is located at the corner of Allen Avenue and Main Street.

EXQUISITE JEWEL OF TROPICAL ISLE

(Continued from First Page.) here that certain specific facts urged President Wilson and Secretary Lansing to press for the purchase of the islands at the present moment.

The United States government is suspicious of a stock company which has been organized to exploit his concessions at Charlotte Amalie. It is understood the stock of this company is largely in the hands of the Germans.

It is feared that in the event of certain international complications, the Kaiser might feel obliged to protect his subjects' interests in the islands, after the King of Denmark has proved unable to do so. The situation then would be very awkward indeed.

That Denmark was not very anxious to sell as compared with the desire of the United States to buy is proved by the purchase price proposed of \$25,000,000, or five times the amount named in 1902. One report had it that Denmark must pay over \$25,000,000 of this to Germany as a penalty for letting allied submarines pass into the Baltic Sea and attack Teutonic shipping. This story seems to have slight support in fact. It appears more probable that the Danes, like any shrewd bargainers, saw the eagerness of the Wilson administration to get the islands and took advantage of it.

As to the inhabitants, they would like to see the islands pass to the United States for nothing. Impoverished as they are, the islands would pass the hat and take up a collection for Uncle Sam to assist the deal. They see the prosperity of the Porto Ricans; they know that Cuba has made immense strides in wealth and power since 1898; they watch the growth of the commerce past their doors through the Panama Canal and they wish to share in Uncle Sam's activities as his own children. They have little interest in far-off, impotent Denmark. Straw

votes show them almost unanimous for a change of sovereignty.

ATTENTION IS TURNED TO ISLANDS BY CIVIL WAR. It was the Civil War which first turned American attention to St. Thomas. At the close of the struggle President Lincoln and Secretary of State Seward had Vice-Admiral Porter investigate the islands, which had been the only place in the West Indies of refuge for Federal vessels in the course of the struggle. The admiral reported: "St. Thomas lies right in the track of all vessels from Europe, Brazil, the East Indies and the Pacific Ocean bound to the West Indian Islands or to the Atlantic States. It is the point where all vessels touch for supplies, when needed, coming from any of the above stations. It is a central point from which any or all of the West Indian Islands can be assailed, while it is impervious to attack from landing parties, and can be fortified to any extent. The bay, on which lies the town of St. Thomas, is almost circular, the entrance being by a neck guarded by two heavy forts, which can be so strengthened and protected that no foreign power can ever hope to take it."

"St. Thomas is a small Gibraltar of itself, and could not be attacked by a naval force. There would be no possibility of landing troops there, as the island is surrounded by reefs and breakers, and every point near which a vessel or boat could approach is a natural fortification and only requires guns, with little labor expended on fortified works. There is no harbor in the West Indies better fitted than St. Thomas for a naval station. Its harbor and that of St. John and the harbor formed by the Water Island, could contain all the vessels of the largest navy in the world, where they could be protected against an enemy. In fact, St. Thomas is the keystone to the arch of the West Indies. It commands them all. It is of more importance to us than to any other nation."

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HOLLAND STILL SAVED FROM MISERIES OF WAR

(Continued from First Page.) artificial regulations, maximum prices, clean government, foodstuffs, export contents and the like, fresh and more complicated adaptations are constantly called for.

The two years' mobilization has given Holland by far the largest and best-equipped army she has ever possessed. For limited conscription has been extended into what is in effect universal compulsory service up to thirty years of age, and training of fresh troops has been going on continuously ever since August, 1914, bringing the number of trained men in the country (though only partly under arms) up to between 400,000 and 500,000. While a large proportion of the younger men tended into what is in effect universal compulsory service up to thirty years of age, and training of fresh troops has been going on continuously ever since August, 1914, bringing the number of trained men in the country (though only partly under arms) up to between 400,000 and 500,000. While a large proportion of the younger men tended into what is in effect universal compulsory service up to thirty years of age, and training of fresh troops has been going on continuously ever since August, 1914, bringing the number of trained men in the country (though only partly under arms) up to between 400,000 and 500,000.

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Two Days Labor Day Excursion to Washington

VIA R. F. AND P. R. R. MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH, 1916. Train leaves Broad and Hancock Streets, Monday morning at 7 A. M. Returning leaves Washington, Sept. 5th, at 6 P. M.

DOUBLE-HEADER BASEBALL, Washington vs. Philadelphia. J. M. THOMPSON & CO., Managers.

The Valentine Museum. ELEVENTH AND CLAY STREETS. Hours 10 A. M. to 5 P. M. Admission 25c. Free on Saturdays.

tion is as well known to them as to the responsible ministers.

The relations between officers and men is not so good as could be desired. In Holland such a class tie as that of sport has hitherto largely been lacking. Fortunately, sport in the army has received encouragement from the highest quarters during these long months of mobilization. The Queen and the commander-in-chief were present in person at the army and navy sports at Amsterdam a few days ago, while a special bureau for the encouragement of sport has been set up under the direction of General Klenkhuysen, and many "sport leaders" are being appointed. Seventy eleven took part in the football competitions in the fortress of Amsterdam alone last season, while competitive matches and the like are not infrequent. Football is granted on a generous scale to help men to keep their businesses going.

Coming to the Dutch press, one or two of the leading journals do not hide their pro- or anti-pro-German sympathies. In their role of judge of all the belligerents, Dutch editorial writers occasionally evoke an ironical smile. The nature of the comments on the position and prospects on the theaters of war has undoubtedly changed since earlier days, when the night of the German legions dazzled the eyes of Dutch military correspondents, and the idea of Britain ever forming new armies

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in time to constitute a serious factor was often scouted as impracticable.

If pro-German sympathies are entertained among a section of the higher classes, the great mass of the people is still strong in its support of the allies. On the one hand, there is a leading newspaper delighting on every possible occasion in denouncing the "unscrupulous scoundrels of central Europe," and on the other it would be difficult to find more bitter anti-British and anti-ally sentiments than those breathed by the Dutch editors of the pro-German *Toekomst* (*The Future*).

As a people, the French certainly seem more popular than the British. The South African war still rankles in the good many minds. The most pro-German element in the political world is found among the church parties of the Right, the veteran ex-Premier, De Abraham Kuyper, a great Calvinist stalwart, leading the van.

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